(b) and (c) The proposal is under consideration.

Non availability of good quality bicycles for Athletes in the country

1783. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a news item which appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' on 23rd May, 1989 quoting a Soviet expert stating that Indian Cycling Athletes cannot show good performances at International meets because they do not have good quality bicycles;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to import good quality cycles for Indian Cycling athletes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Imported cycles are already available in the National Coaching Camps. The Sports Authority of India has placed a further order for import of cycles. The foreign suppliers have effected shipment on July 24, 1989.

Facility of onward reservation at Sahatwar Railway Station

1784. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no facility of onward reservations at Sahatwar Railway Station, Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Sahatwar Station is mainly handling short distance passenger traffic for which no reservation quota has been provided at this station. However, the reservations are arranged by sending messages to the train originating stations.

Railway line in Phulbani district Orissa

1785. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Phulbani District in the State of Orissa has not been connected with a railway line;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Orissa has recently sent a proposal to his Ministry to construct a railway line from Khurda to Tilagarh *via* Boudh; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A proposal was received from the Government of Orissa for a new railway line from Khurda Road to Balangir, passing through Phulbani District. Accordingly a survey was carried out, but the project was found to be financially unremunerative.

Contract secured by RITES

1786. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) has secured a contract for operation and maintenance of Baghdad-Alquin-Akashat Railway Project;